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Section of the Penis

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Since this case was not responding to treatment, the animal was destroyed after permission was received from the owner.

R. M. Hacecky, '50

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Section of the Penis. A yearling Hereford steer was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic January 12, 1949, with a history of inability to micturate, and a large subcutaneous swelling to the left of the ventral midline and about 2 inches posterior to the preputial orifice. Examination revealed the swelling to be soft and fluctuating. A diagnosis of urethral calculi was made.

The patient was restrained in the stocks on Jan. 17, and the perineal region from the anus to the scrotum was soaped, shaved, and disinfected with iodine.

Anesthesia was obtained by epidural injection of 8 cc. of 2 percent procaine hydrochloride solution. An incision was made on the midline, beginning at the lower edge of the ischium and extending downward about 3 inches. The penis was exposed and separated with considerable difficulty from the surrounding tissue. The urethra and penis were then severed completely about 2 inches from the origin of the corpus cavernosum muscle. The proximal end of the penis was withdrawn through the incision and fixed with a stay suture, leaving the end projecting. The initial incision was sutured with simple interrupted silk apposition sutures, leaving drainage at the ventral commissure.

The animal improved the first two days after the operation and ate, urinated and defecated normally, the urine escaping from the stump of the urethra. The third day after the operation, the animal was depressed and failed to eat, therefore a blood urea test was conducted. The findings showed normal renal function.

Depression was so great the morning of Jan. 18 that further examination revealed the abdominal swelling to be inflamed and to contain soft spots. Aspiration of the contents proved the swelling to be due to escaped urine and not edema

as had been previously presumed. The animal was again restrained in the stocks and the area over the abdominal swelling was soaped, shaved, and disinfected with tincture of Iodine. An incision one and one half inches long was made in the center of the enlargement to permit drainage. At that time it was determined that the urethra had ruptured proximal to a calculus prior to the section of the urethra and penis, thus permitting urine to escape into the subcutaneous tissue.

The next day the patient had resumed eating and the swelling had diminished by one-half with recovery proceeding uneventfully until Jan. 25. At that time the skin over the area where the swelling had occurred showed evidence of necrosis; the area was dusted with boric acid and air-slaked lime to hasten sloughing. During the next four days all the skin between the flanks and from the preputial orifice to the scrotum necrosed and sloughed, although the patient seemed only slightly depressed and continued to eat. Equal parts of boric acid and air-



Fig. 10. The posterior abdominal floor as it appeared January 27, the second day after necrosis was noticed.

slaked lime were applied to the denuded area each day.

By February, part of the flowing between the skin and the subcutaneous tissues to the posterior edge of the slough and then escaping. The denuded area was irrigated with Potassium permanganate, 1:3000 dilution, and the wound healing powder replaced by sulfanilamide powder.

Throughout the patient's stay at the clinic, fungus lesions around the eyes were treated with iodine and glycerine, equal parts. The patient was discharged Feb. 5, 1949, with a favorable prognosis.

J. W. Erickson, '49

New AVMA Directory

If present hopes are realized, the American Veterinary Medical Association will shortly release a directory of graduate veterinarians in the United States, its possessions and Canada. It is planned to include the names and addresses and other pertinent information of and about all graduate veterinarians. The directory will not be restricted to AVMA members. Graduates of recognized veterinary colleges will be included whether they are members or not.

In pointing up this fact, AVMA officials said, "Although the AVMA is desirous of adding new members to its rolls, we wish to make it clear that this directory project is not intended to solicit memberships." They point out that it will be to the advantage of every graduate veterinarian to be listed, since the directory will be essentially a "Who's Who" of the veterinary profession.

Four peasants were sentenced to death in 1948 for killing pigs. A people's court in Osijek, Croatia, condemned them on charges of economic sabotage by feeding poison to 680 pigs on a government-owned model farm.

Exploitation of Farmers

The AVMA public relations committee has charged that "certain groups and commercial interests are seeking to exploit the farmer for private gain."

Farmers, they say, are being bombarded with propaganda from "certain" institutions urging the use of penicillin, sulfa-drugs and other products on livestock. They urge this without regard to the need for skilled diagnosis, proper dosage and adequate care in handling, said the committee in its report to the AVMA.

They warn, "It is the duty of the veterinary profession to combat such illogical activities with every means at its command." These activities are grossing millions of dollars annually for their promoters, while failing to prevent, or actually causing, livestock losses in some cases.

Californians Challenge Mastitis Report

Dr. O. W. Schalm and Dr. R. Ormsbee of the University of California in Berkeley have challenged a report that older cattle are more susceptible to certain types of mastitis than younger cows.

After studying 629 cows exposed in two outbreaks of mastitis they claim to have found no significant relationship between susceptibility and age.

"We have concluded that the age factor does not play a decisive role in the spread of streptococcal mastitis. Cows in the first, second, third and fourth milking years developed infection at almost identical rates when housed and handled under the same conditions. In the presence of extended exposure, randomly distributed and transitory predisposing circumstances are regarded as the major factors. Therefore, sanitary practices and segregation are regarded as sound procedures for the control of this disease."

The number of U. S. farm houses with modern bathrooms more than doubled between 1940 and 1947.